

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1-7 having been amended, and new Claims 8-15 having been added, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action Claims 4 and 5 were objected to; Claim 2 appears to have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,581,657 to Takano; and Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,439,299 to Miyahara et al. (Miyahara).

As stated above Claims 4 and 5 were objected to. In response, Applicants have amended the claims to remove the recitation of “any one of,” in accordance with the Examiner’s helpful suggestion. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 4 and 5 be withdrawn.

As stated above Claim 2 appears to have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 2 to recite “an image focusing lens holding board portion” and “a standing board portion.” Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takano. Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano in view of Miyahara. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims have overcome the rejections for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a fixing structure (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 1), an image data input unit (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 6), and an image data input apparatus including an image data input unit (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 7). Independent Claims 1, 6, and 7 recite an image focusing lens holding member including a surface. An intermediate holding member is configured to hold a solid state image forming device onto the image focusing lens holding member, the intermediate holding member including a surface facing the surface of the image focusing lens holding member. At least one projecting portion is formed on one of the surfaces of the image focusing lens holding member and the intermediate holding member, the at least one projection portion including a surface contacting through an adhesive material the other one of the surfaces of the intermediate holding member and the image focusing lens holding member. A space configured to receive a tool inserted therein, is formed between the intermediate holding member and the image focusing lens holding member to separate the intermediate holding member and the image focusing lens holding member.

Takano is directed to an image reading device. As shown in Figure 2, for example, of Takano, an imaging lens 9 is provided on a carriage 6.¹ A solid-state image pick up element 10 is supported in a recess 26 of a support member 29.²

Applicants respectfully assert that Takano does not teach or render obvious, however, the claimed features of a space configured to receive a tool inserted therein, formed between an intermediate holding member and an image focusing lens holding member to separate the intermediate holding member and the image focusing lens holding member, as recited in independent Claim 1. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Takano does not show or state a space between the support member 29 and the carriage 6 to receive a tool, and such a space separating the support member 29 and the carriage 6, for example.

¹ Column 2, lines 44-49.

² Column 3, lines 10-14.

In particular, independent Claim 1 recites “a space configured to receive a tool inserted therein, is formed between the intermediate holding member and the image focusing lens holding member to separate said intermediate holding member and said image focusing lens holding member.” Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claims 6 and 7 are allowable over the references of record for reasons similar to those of independent Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claims 6 and 7.

Applicants further respectfully assert that Claims 3-5 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 3-5.

With regard to the new claims, Applicants respectfully assert that new independent Claim 8, as well as Claims 9-15 depending therefrom, is allowable for reasons similar to those of independent Claims 1, 6, and 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new Claims 8-15.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-15 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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